

New ASSIC boss faces tough challenges in new assignment

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Georgetown Gemini
Rosslyn Dowell will return to her roots when she takes

over as ASSIC's new executive director.
Dowell was a career civil servant with Health and Wel-

fare Canada on maternity leave, when she learned that ASSIC boss Peggy Balkind was retiring.

"This will be a good fit," Dowell explains, "because although my academic background is in gerontology and aging, and I had been working in senior management positions in the Federal government, my volunteer work had remained in the aging field."

Dowell, now the mother of two small boys, says the job came just when the time was right for her to stop commuting and travelling for business.

"When Peggy retired, I decided to apply for the job because I thought it was time in my life to get back to my roots and work with a social service agency, and I wanted to work in Halton Hills," Dowell says.

Dowell gained a good general knowledge of the community while working on a local committee with ASSIC and other social service agency staff to try to launch a pilot project for a multi-serv-

ice agency, a plan that died with the former NDP government.

Dowell says the greatest challenge facing ASSIC is finding funding - with usual funding shrinking, it is becoming quite competitive.

"Because I spent a number of years on the other end of the funding business - receiving proposals - my experience in grant writing and my network of potential funding sources was seen as an asset by the ASSIC Board," says Dowell, noting another strength she will bring to the job is her experience in managing the human resources side of change.

In the immediate future, the ASSIC Board will likely want to look at what the greatest needs in Acton and Halton Hills are at this point time with a community survey or needs assessment.

"We have a sense that things are changing and that there might be a need for

programs for people who are unemployed or seeking other opportunities. We need to know how ASSIC might help and remain relevant.

"We are also looking to provide some leadership in the seniors area as community-based services develop in Georgetown," Dowell adds, noting that ASSIC seniors coordinator Sue Haggith is now at the Georgetown Seniors Centre once a week to provide information services.

Dowell, a native of Orillia, attended the University of Guelph for her undergraduate degree and then received a Masters in Gerontology from the University of South Florida.

After working in Ottawa Dowell moved to Georgetown with her family in 1989.

She will spend the summer working on some funding proposals that have deadlines and prepare for her official start Sept. 3.

GO train service to the Exhibition

As the Canadian National Exhibition fast approaches, GO Transit is reminding passengers taking the train is a cheap and effective alternative to get to the CNE, Aug. 16 to Sept. 2.

Day passes and group

passes allow a day's unlimited travel to and from Exhibition station, and adult monthly pass holders can take a companion along free on GO Transit on weekends and Labour Day Monday. Exhibition GO station is in the

heart of the CNE Grounds.

The service is also running extra trains during the air show, at 11 am and noon, Aug. 31- Sept. 2.

For further information call GO Transit at (519) 853-0572.

3/4" Oak Flooring

\$2.99

- per sq. ft.
- pre-finished
- 3 colours in stock
- installation available

Brampton Carpet
10 Wilkinson Road
Brampton
451-5641

300 YARDS EAST OF TOMKEN

Child Find
O N T A R I O

and



WILL HELP YOU KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE!

with

KIDPRINT™

Have a KIDPRINT Identification Video made by BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO today for \$3.00*

All proceeds will be donated to Child Find.

Plus, get a free Kids Gift Pack with every KIDPRINT! **



CENTRE COURT • SATURDAY AUGUST 17TH • 11am - 3pm

*KIDPRINT IDENTIFICATION VIDEO WILL BE MADE WITH NO CHARGE IF YOU BRING YOUR OWN VIDEO TAPE
**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST